

Message

From: Kaiser, Steven [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=10BF2440EDD749D2845015C7AB59FF4B-SKAISE02]
Sent: 9/21/2016 2:23:19 PM
To: Carla Morgan [cmorgan@eastchicago.com]; McCoy, Lisa [LMcCoy@idem.IN.gov]
CC: Toney, Marcy [toney.marcy@epa.gov]
Subject: USS Lead - Press

East Chicago press clips**US EPA Region 5 – prepared by the Office of Public Affairs****September 21, 2016****Post Tribune - Pence asks HUD for plan to aid East Chicago residents****Indiana 105 - Pence Asks HUD for Relocation Plan for East Chicago Residents****NWI Times - East Chicago polling place to be moved out of contamination zone****Note – neither American Lead (Indianapolis) nor Pilsen lead clips**

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/ct-ptb-pence-hud-letter-st-0921-20160920-story.html>

Pence asks HUD for plan to aid East Chicago residents

Craig Lyons Chicago Tribune

Gov. Mike Pence on Tuesday urged the head of the U.S. Housing and Urban Development Department to put together a specific plan to relocate residents of the West Calumet Housing Complex in East Chicago.

Pence, in a letter to HUD Secretary Julian Castro, requested the federal housing agency answer if relocation and moving expenses are available for all residents; if officials will work with residents who are unable to find an affordable housing option; if a plan exists for large families unable to find housing; and what the plan is to find housing solutions for families given the price difference between affordable and market rate options.

"It is extremely important to me that these families are taken care of and that accommodations are being made by HUD and local housing authorities to ensure adequate housing can be found to accommodate all members of their households," Pence wrote in the letter. "After all, this is a situation none of them expected to be in."

Pence, also the Republican nominee for vice president, has drawn the ire of East Chicago residents for not personally visiting the city to meet with residents affected by the contaminated soil at the former U.S.S. Lead site, which includes the West Calumet Housing Complex.

"We've been saying since the beginning, the governor should be here," said Bishop Tavis Grant, during a community meeting at the First Baptist Church in East Chicago last month.

Pence's office said his staff has been in regular contact with city officials in East Chicago about the situation around the former U.S.S. Lead site.

The Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority and State Department of Health agreed to provide the city with \$200,000 to assist with its relocation and public health efforts. The state and city have partnered to offer residents free blood tests.

The city first learned of the extent of the lead contamination at the site in May, according to a timeline of events provided by East Chicago officials, and decided in June to relocate residents of the West Calumet Housing Complex.

Given the levels of contamination at the site, the city and East Chicago Housing Authority decided to demolish the complex once the residents are relocated.

HUD began releasing relocation vouchers in August and residents could start using them on Sept. 1.

James Cunningham, deputy regional administrator for HUD, told the Post-Tribune the federal agency is working closely with the local housing authority to provide funding and technical assistance for the relocation.

The tenants who have to relocate won't have to pay for most of the moving costs, Cunningham said, and things like security deposits, application fees and packing materials will be covered by HUD.

"I know it's been a big question," Cunningham said.

Cunningham said HUD aims to have residents relocated by Dec. 1.

In the letter, Pence thanked Castro for HUD providing 12 housing counselors to assist residents and giving \$1.1 million to the East Chicago Housing Authority for relocation assistance.

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<http://indiana105.com/region-news/pence-asks-hud-for-relocation-plan-for-east-chicago-residents/>
Pence Asks HUD for Relocation Plan for East Chicago Residents

POSTED BY REGION NEWS TEAM ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2016 | 2:29 PM IN LOCAL NEWS, REGION NEWS

Indiana Governor Mike Pence is asking for a specific plan from the federal government regarding the relocation plan for those impacted by lead contaminated soil in East Chicago. During a phone call with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Julián Castro this morning, Governor Pence asked if HUD will be able to fund the relocation and moving expenses for all residents, not just the most vulnerable and if HUD will work directly with residents unable to afford housing outside of the West Calumet Housing Complex. He also inquired about HUD's plan to help to work with local partners to find a suitable solution for families that face a sizable differential between subsidized housing and market rates.

Governor Pence followed up with a letter to the Secretary.

In the letter, the Governor wrote:

“Given that HUD is the lead agency overseeing the relocation effort, I am inquiring about your plan to address the following issues, which seem to be the greatest vulnerabilities we face in this process:

- Will HUD be able to fund the relocation and moving expenses for all residents, not just the most vulnerable?
- Will HUD work directly with residents who are unable to afford housing outside the West Calumet Housing Complex?
- It has come to our attention that there is a lack of affordable housing options for those currently living in 3, 4 or 5 bedroom units. What is HUD’s plan to help these large families?

What is your plan to work with local partners to find a suitable solution for families that face a sizable differential between subsidized housing and market rates?”

http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/elections/east-chicago-polling-place-to-be-moved-out-of-contamination/article_9ada88be-14aa-5568-8cc8-249ca3e444e7.html

East Chicago polling place to be moved out of contamination zone

- [Bill Dolan bill.dolan@nwi.com](mailto:bill.dolan@nwi.com), (219) 662-5328

William Dolan

EAST CHICAGO — Lake election officials are searching for somewhere residents of the lead-contaminated West Calumet Housing Complex can vote this fall.

Michelle Fajman, the county elections director, said Tuesday precinct committeemen are expected to meet soon to suggest an alternate polling place to replace the one used last spring for East Chicago Precinct 14 in the complex’s recreation center at 4925 Gladiola St.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released data earlier this year showing the soil at the complex is highly contaminated with lead and arsenic. The city has decided to demolish the West Calumet Housing Complex and told residents there to move, but residents in cleanup areas east of the complex will be allowed to remain during the cleanup.

The U.S. Department of Housing has authorized \$1.9 million in vouchers to help residents relocate, beginning this month. The residents have until the end of next month to use the vouchers, although extensions may be granted.

Fajman said her office sent letters to the 578 registered voters in the precinct informing them they have the right to return to their old polling place to vote in the Nov. 8 general election as long as they live somewhere within Lake County.

However, they cannot use the Gladiola site this fall because of the contamination.

State law forbids changing polling places between the spring primary and the fall election except in an emergency. The bipartisan elections board voted unanimously Tuesday to declare an emergency for EC-14.

“I think it’s better to merge that into an adjoining precinct. When we change that location we will send out another letter saying this is where you are going to,” she said.

Fajman said large numbers of those notification letters are being returned by the post office because the voters have left with no forwarding address. “They already have moved on,” she said.

The county normally would remove those names from its voter rolls, but won't because of the emergency.

The elections board also voted to move this fall's early voting location in Gary from the county courthouse at 4th and Broadway to the nearby Genesis Convention Center, because new security arrangements in the courthouse make it difficult for disabled voters to enter the building.

Sincerely,

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